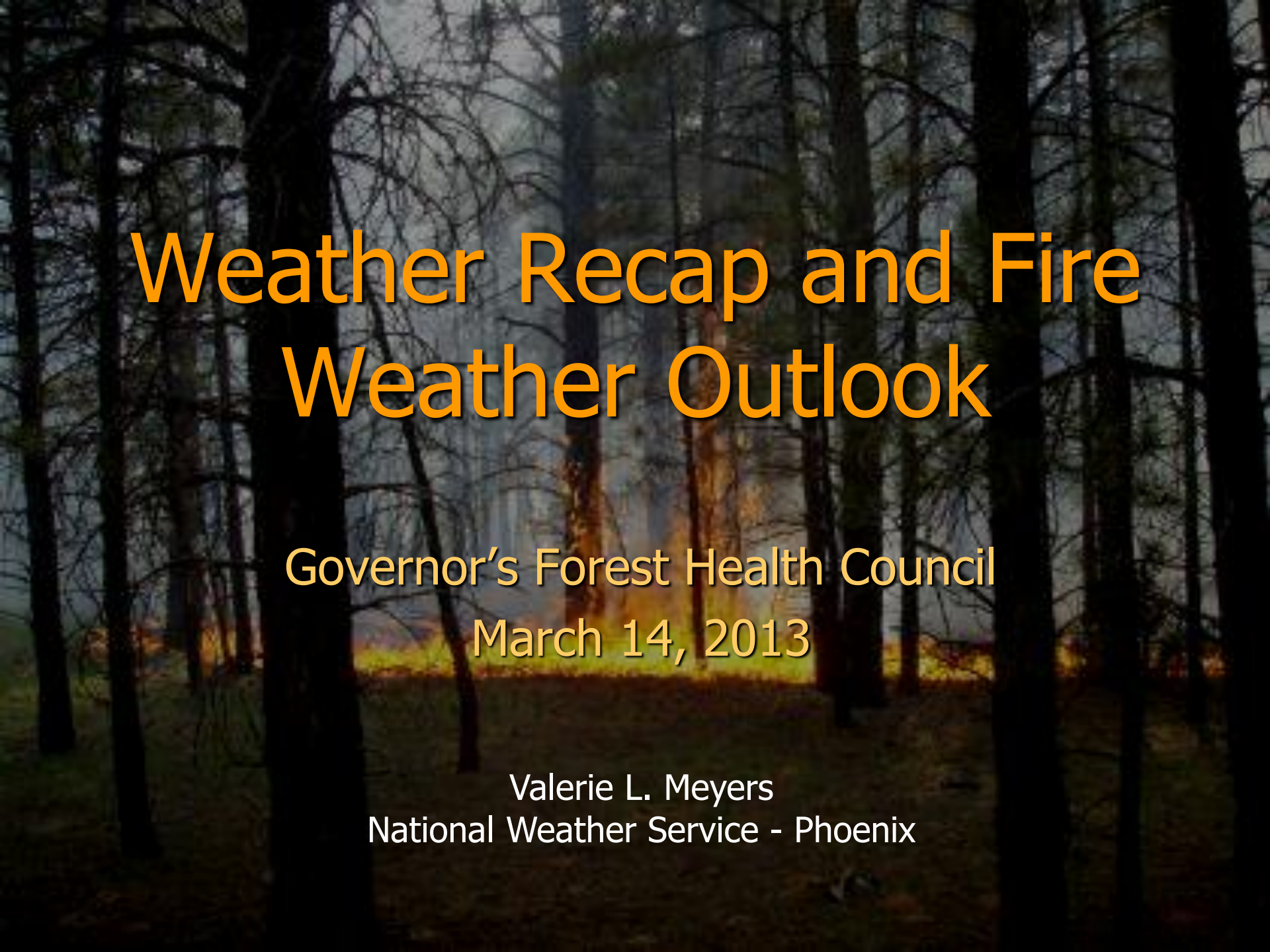
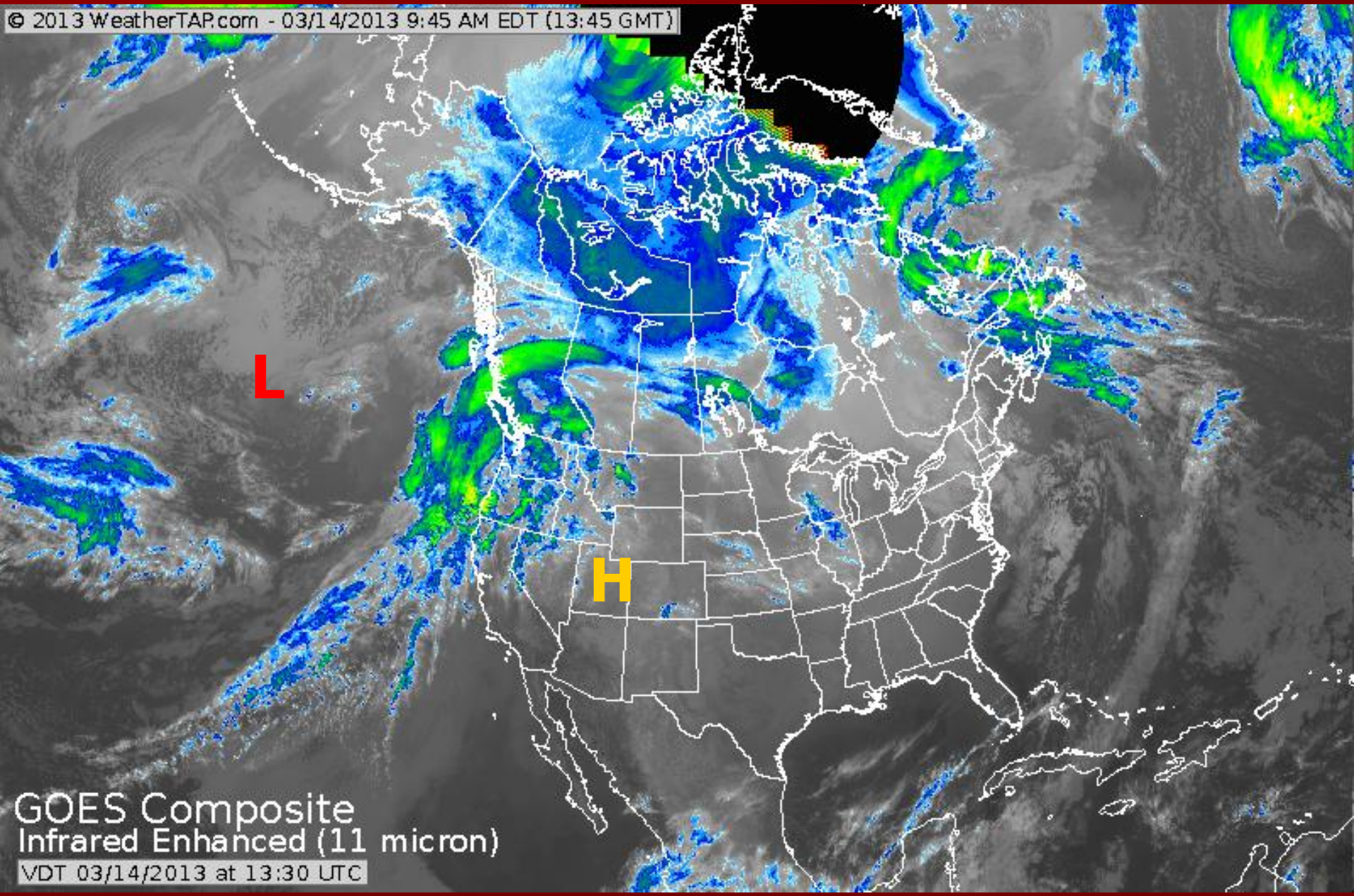


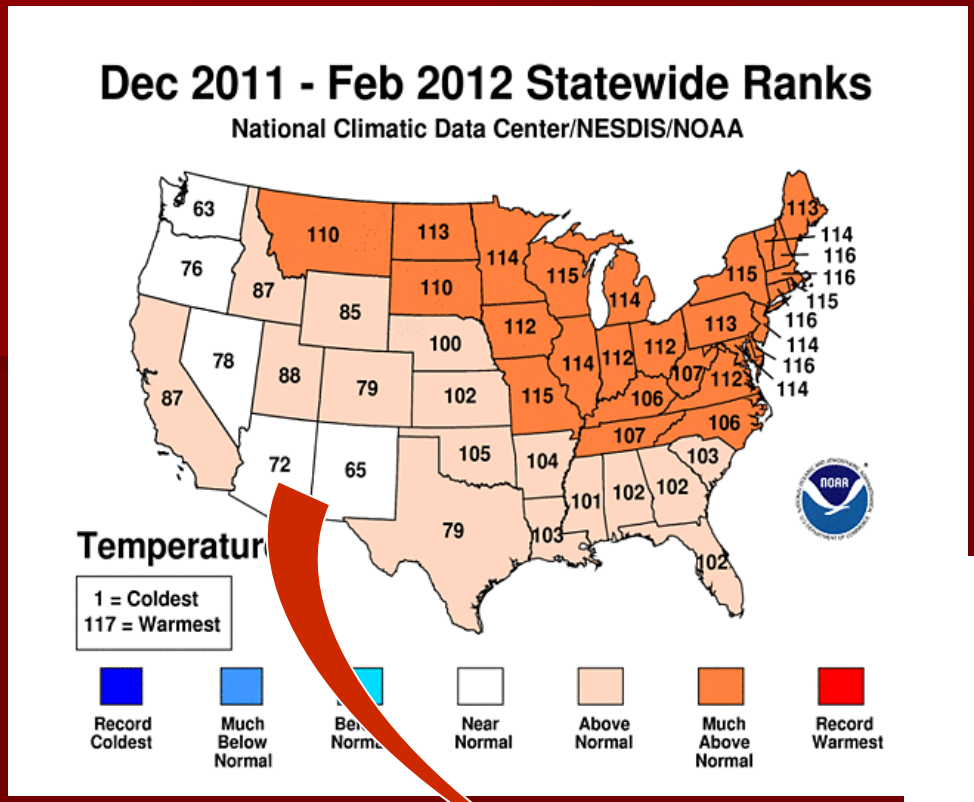
Weather Recap and Fire Weather Outlook

Governor's Forest Health Council
March 14, 2013

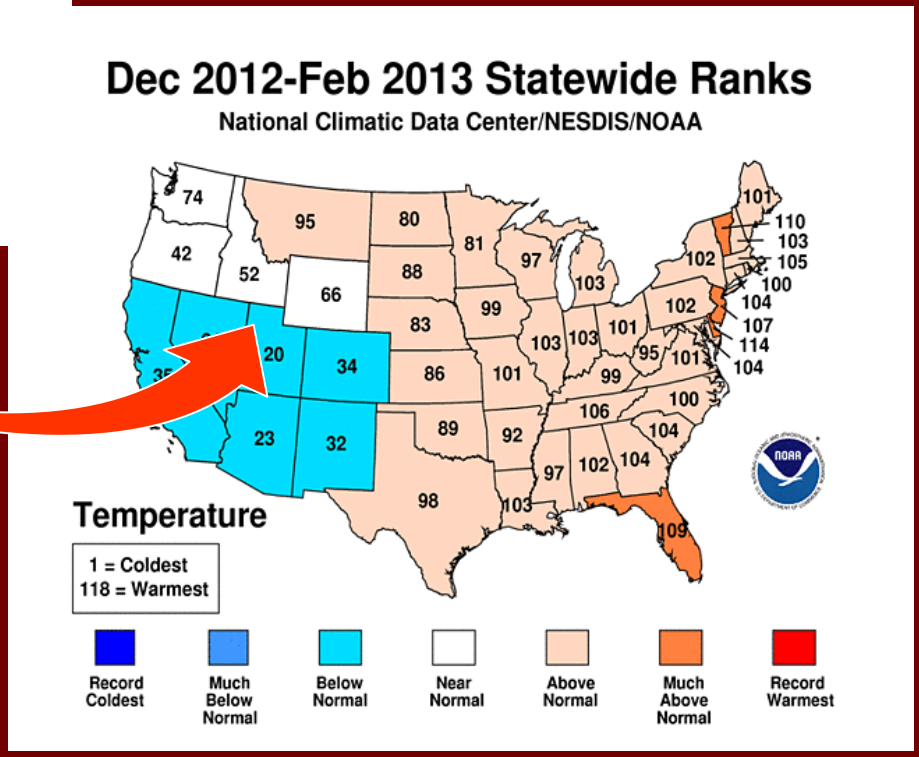
Valerie L. Meyers
National Weather Service - Phoenix


© 2013 WeatherTAP.com - 03/14/2013 9:45 AM EDT (13:45 GMT)
L
H
GOES Composite
Infrared Enhanced (11 micron)
VDT 03/14/2013 at 13:30 UTC

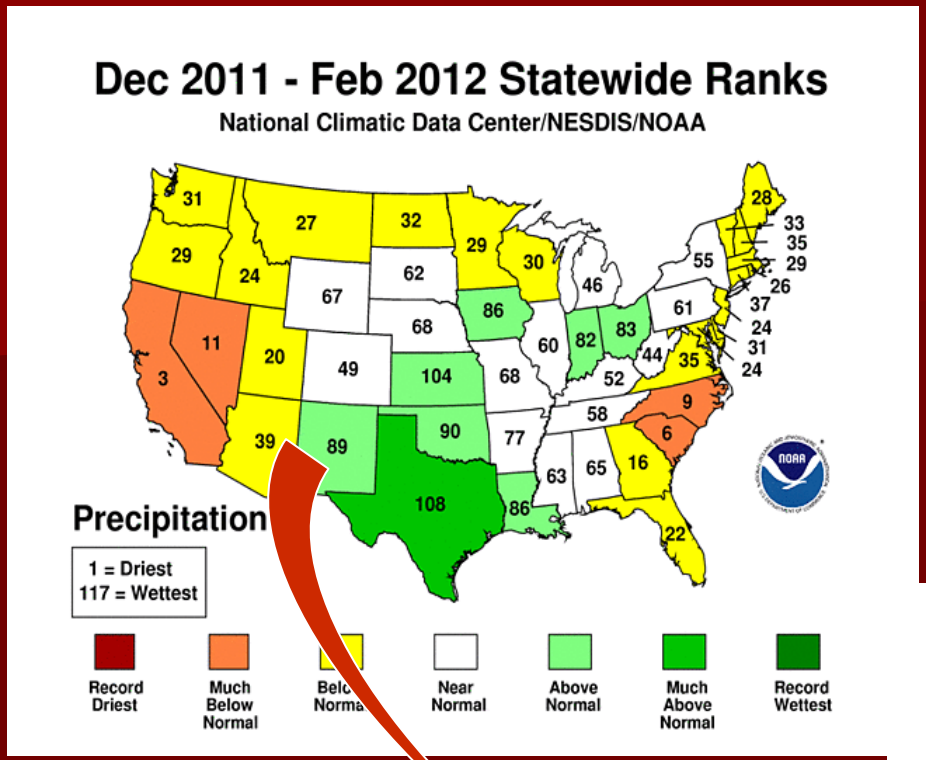
Winter Temperatures



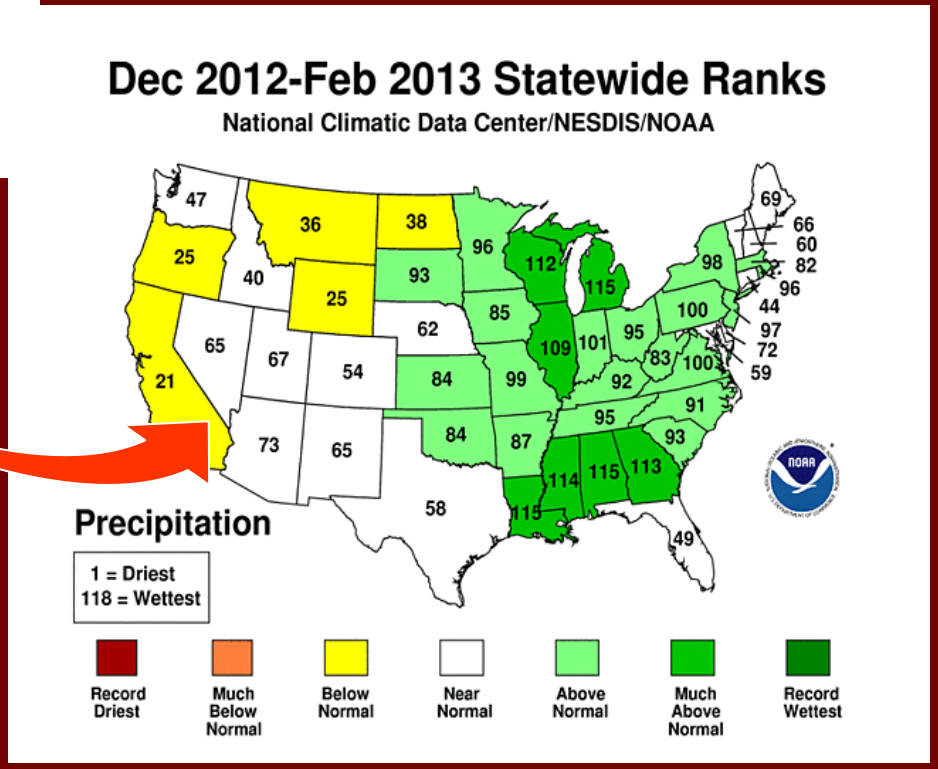
COLDER



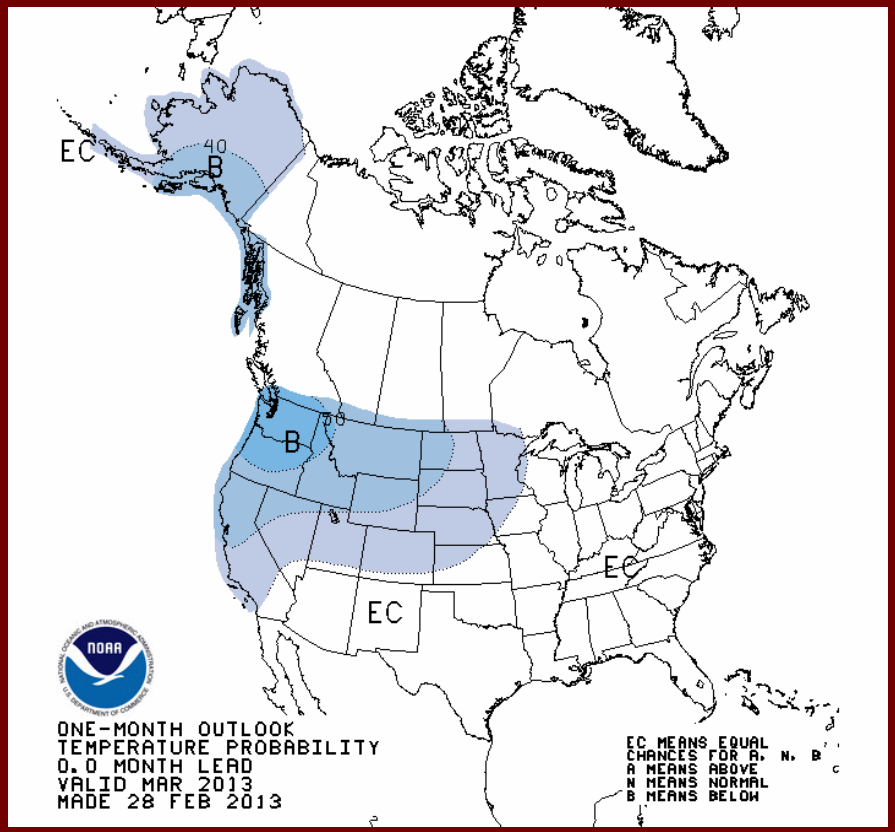
Winter Precipitation

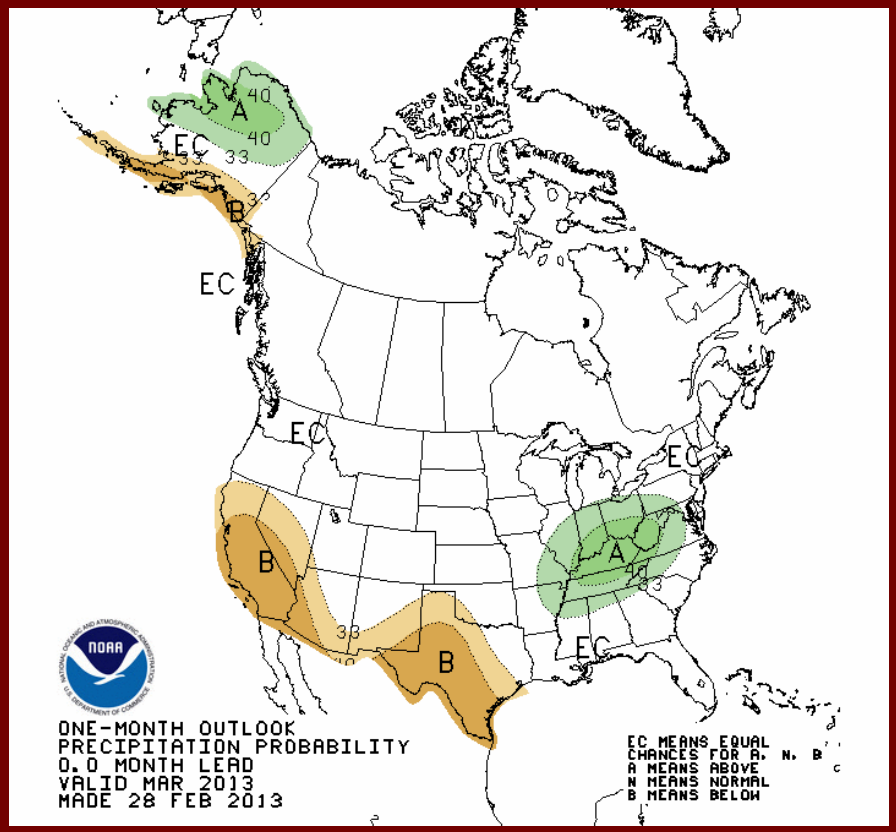


WETTER ?



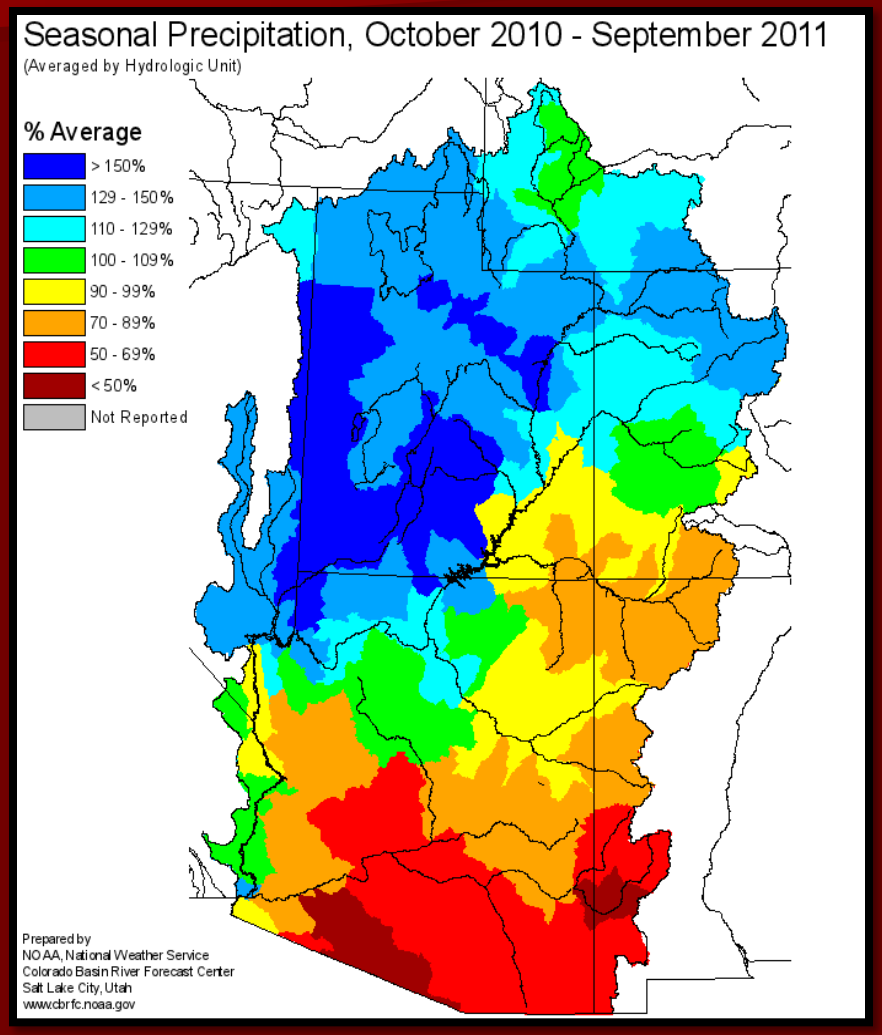
March 2013


EC
40
B
B
70
EC
EC
NOAA
ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
0.0 MONTH LEAD
VALID MAR 2013
MADE 28 FEB 2013
EC MEANS EQUAL
CHANCES FOR A, N, B
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW

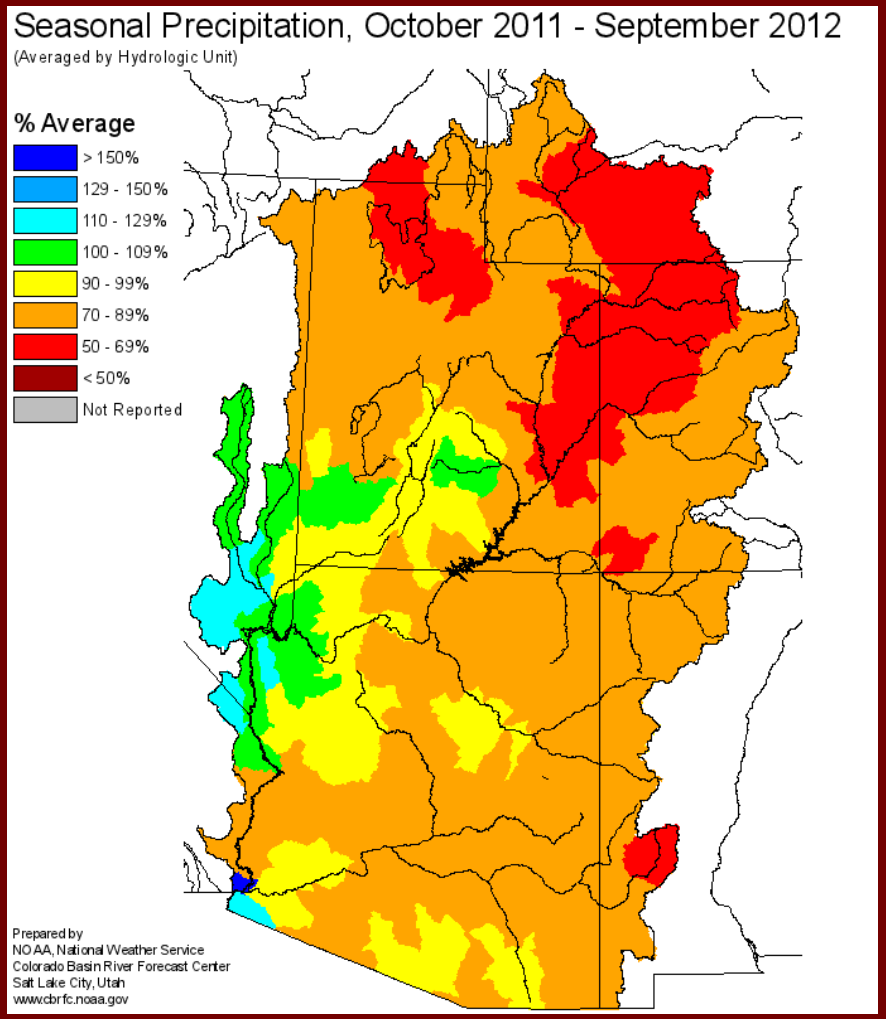

A
40
EC
40
33
B
33
EC
EC
EC
B
A
40
33
B
EC
NOAA
ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
0.0 MONTH LEAD
VALID MAR 2013
MADE 28 FEB 2013
EC MEANS EQUAL
CHANCES FOR A, N, B
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW

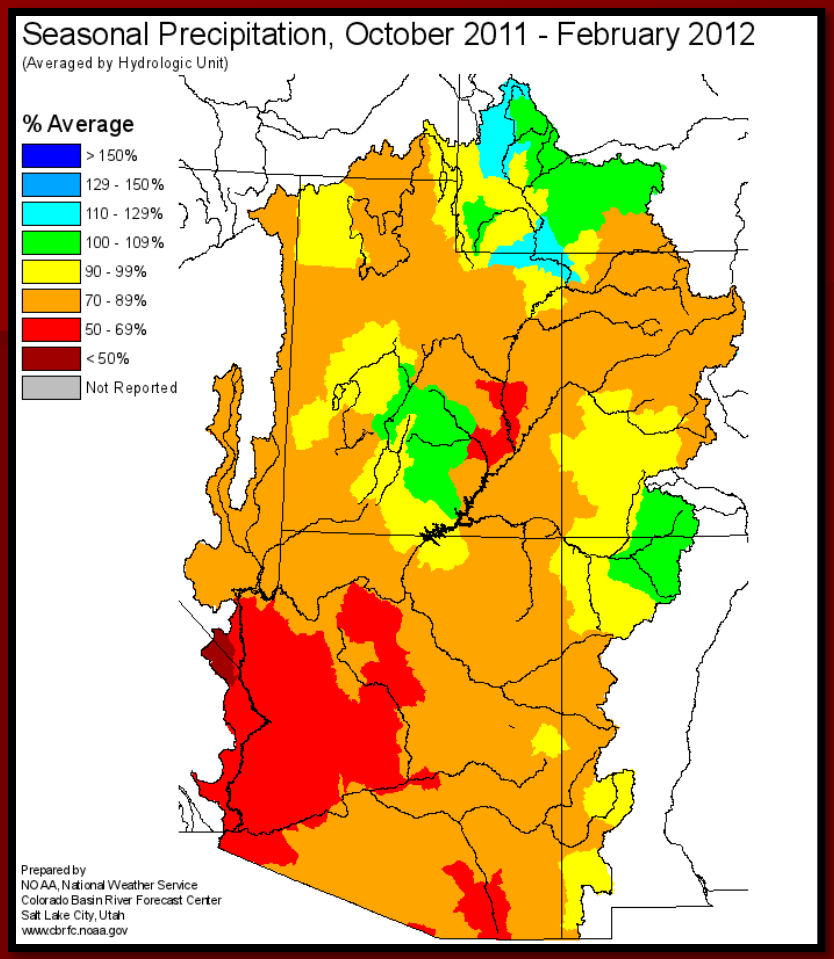
Precipitation Comparison

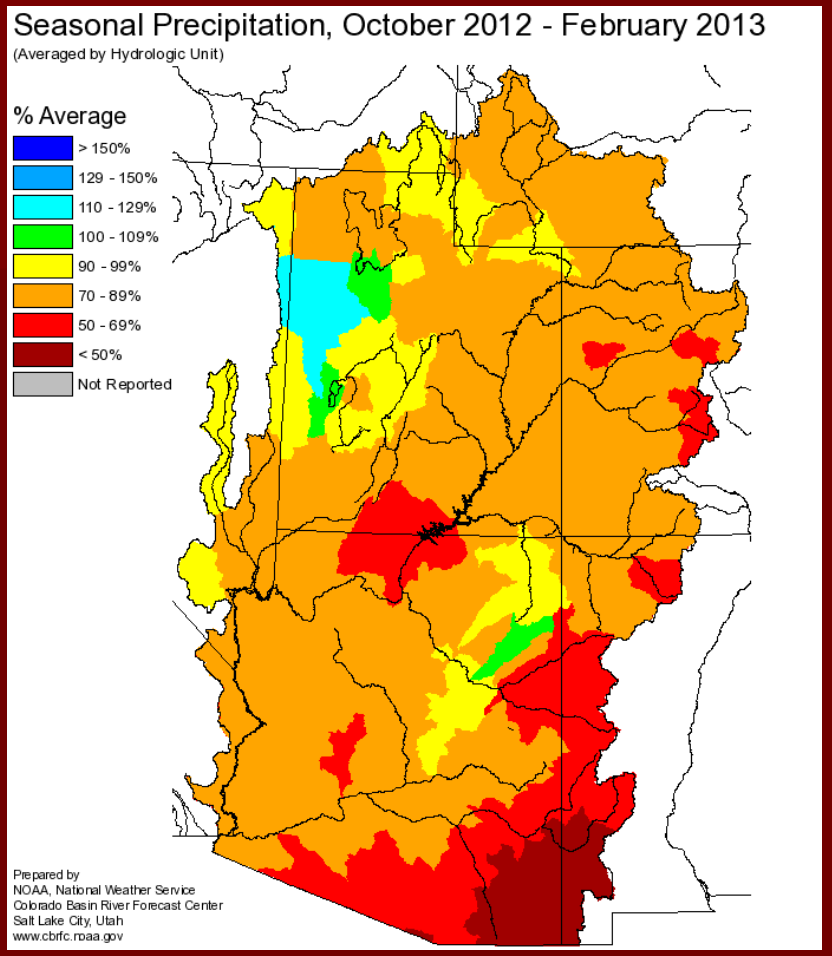
Water Year – 2011



Water Year – 2012

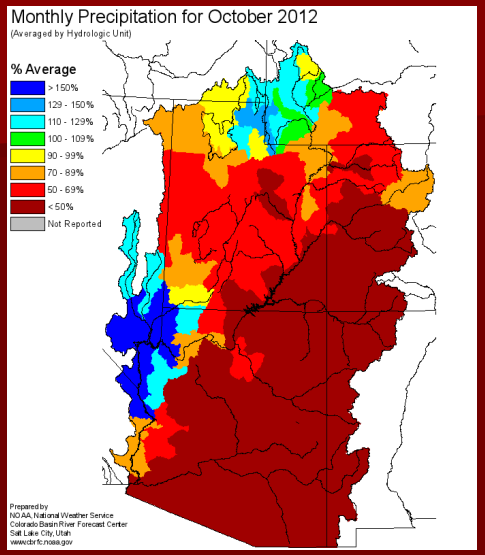


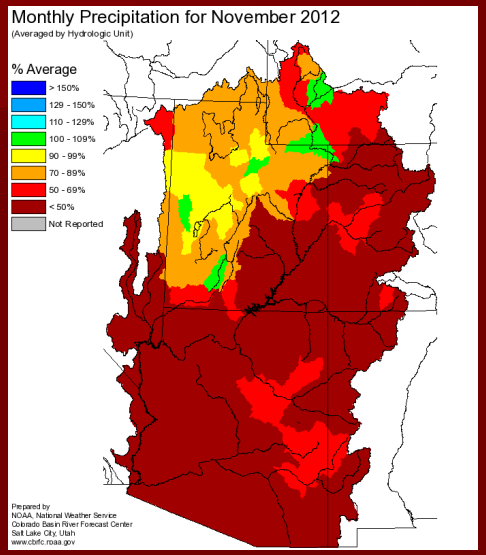


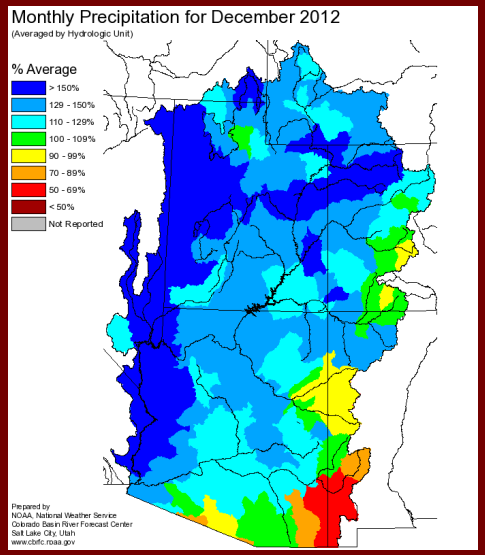


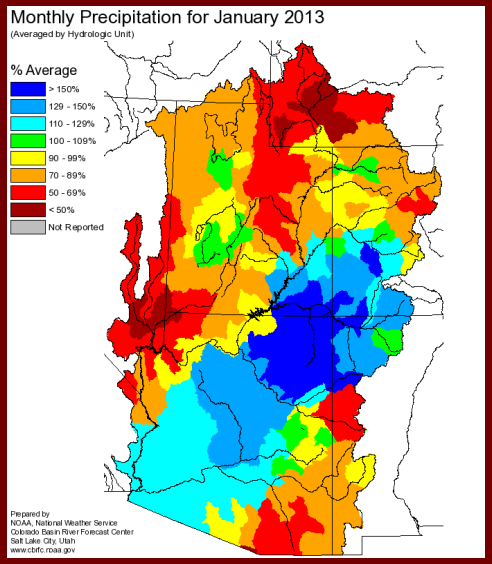
Water Year (first half) 2012 to 2013 Comparison

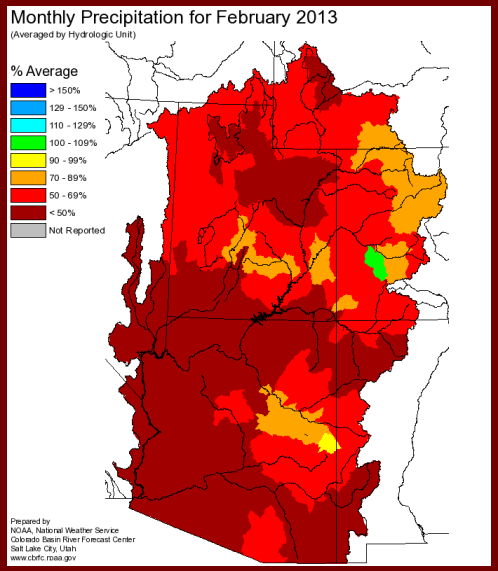
Monthly Precipitation Comparison
October 2012 – February 2013





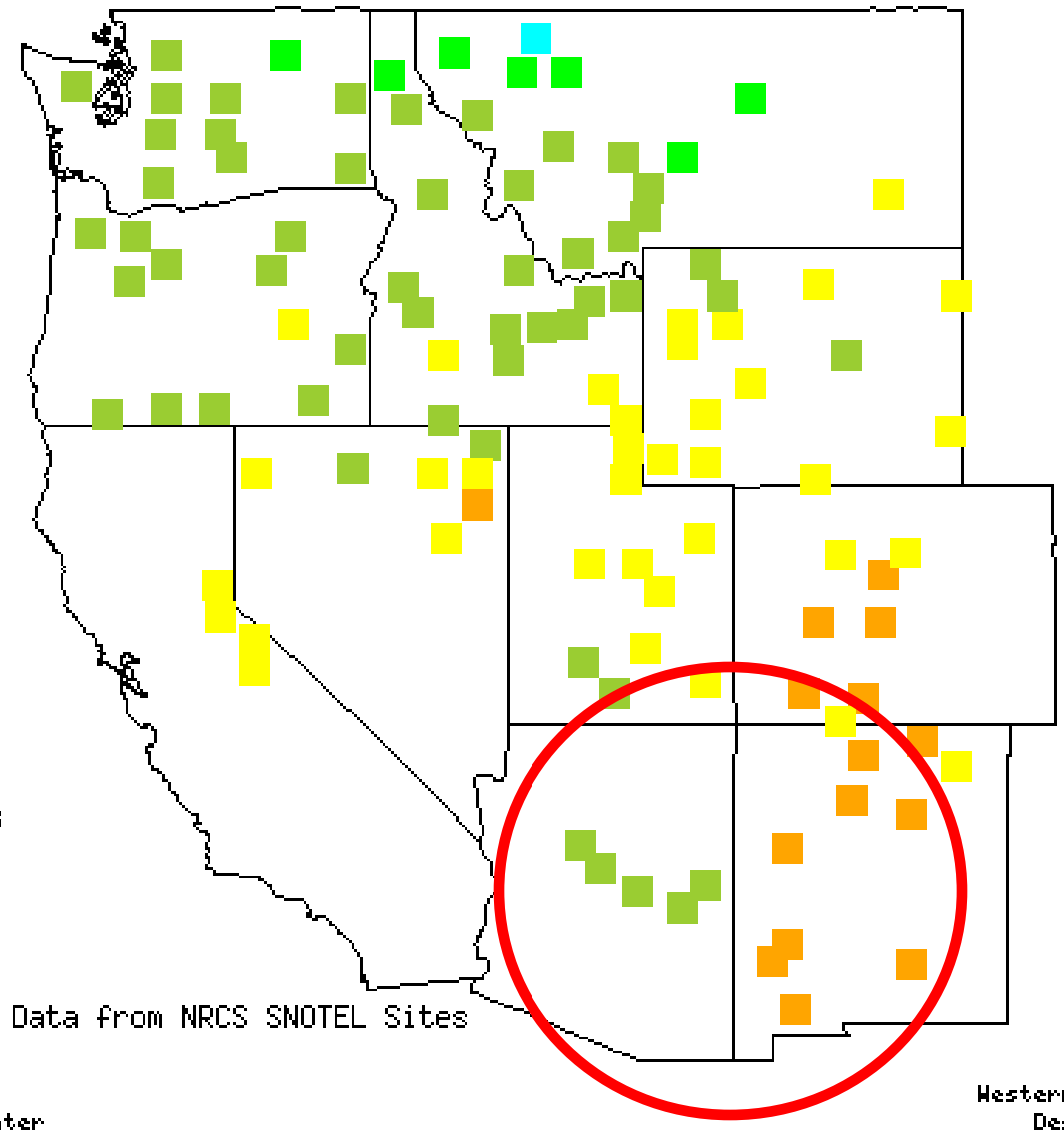






Basin Average Precipitation. (% of Average.)

OCTOBER 1 , 2011 thru MARCH 13 , 2013



Percent of Average

- > 200
- 175 to 200
- 150 to 175
- 125 to 150
- 110 to 125
- 90 to 110
- 75 to 90
- 50 to 75
- 25 to 50
- < 25

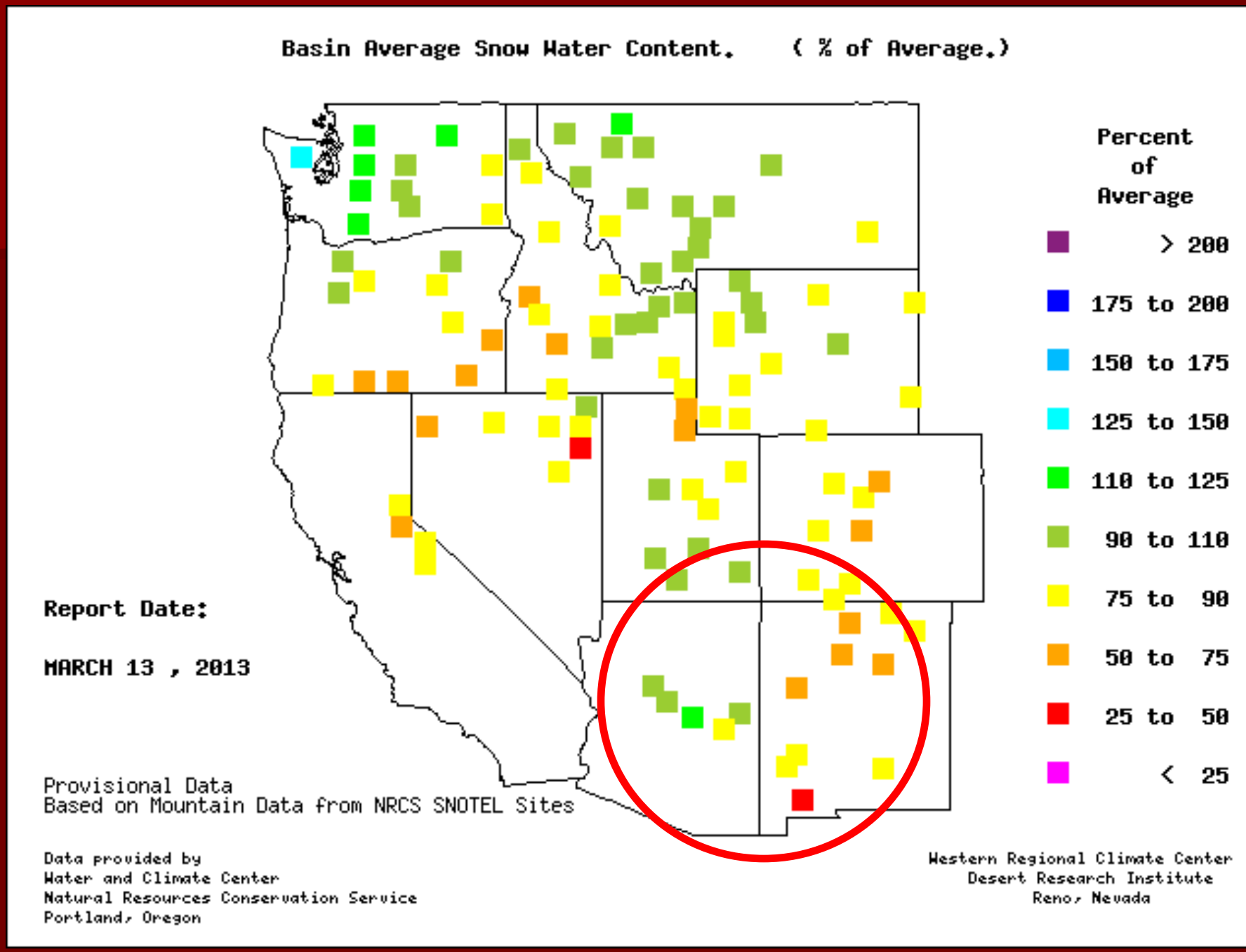
Report Date:

MARCH 13 , 2013

Provisional Data
Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites

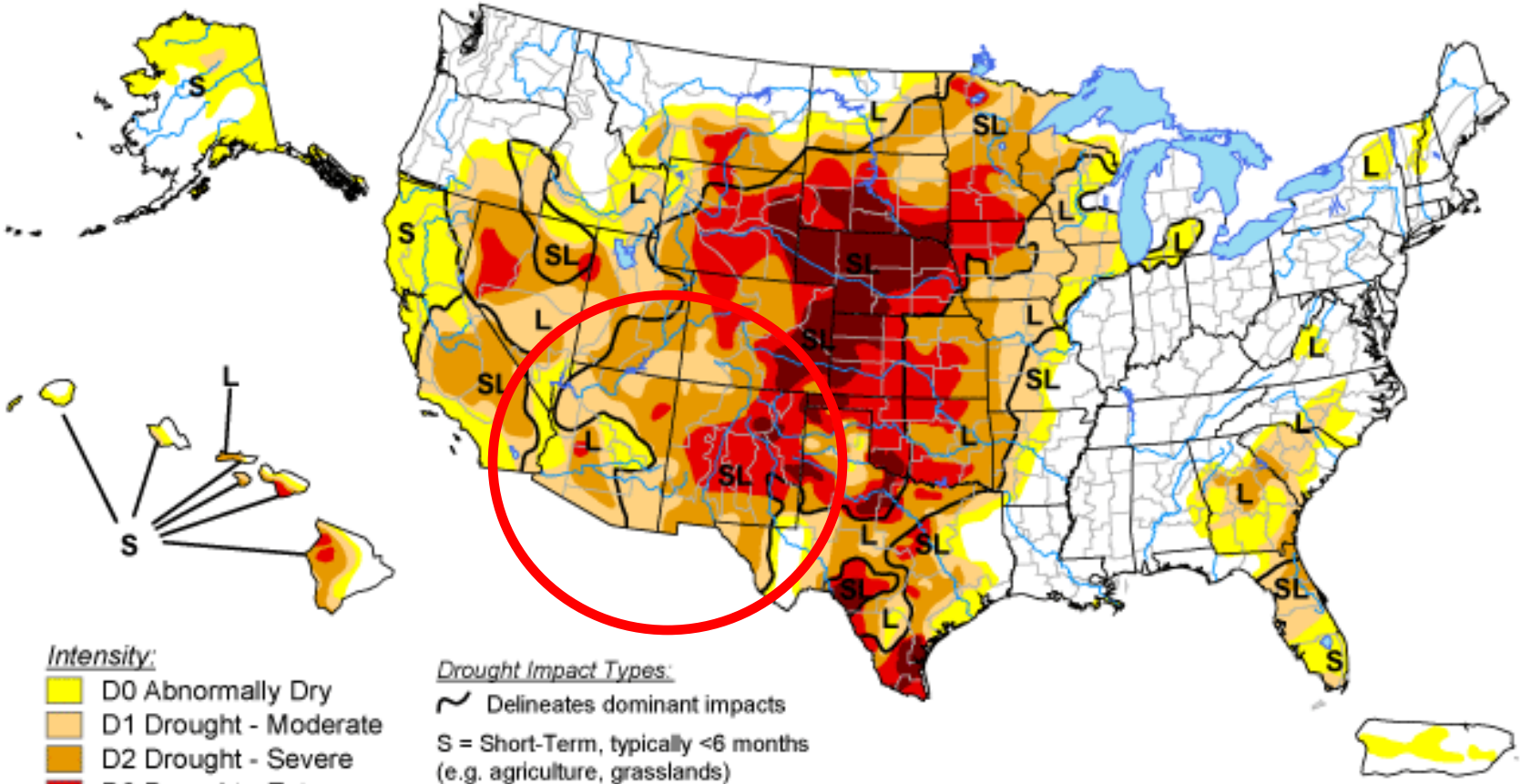
Data provided by
Water and Climate Center
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Portland, Oregon

Western Regional Climate Center
Desert Research Institute
Reno, Nevada


Basin Average Snow Water Content. (% of Average.)
Percent of Average
> 200
175 to 200
150 to 175
125 to 150
110 to 125
90 to 110
75 to 90
50 to 75
25 to 50
< 25
Report Date:
MARCH 13 , 2013
Provisional Data
Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites
Data provided by
Water and Climate Center
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Portland, Oregon
Western Regional Climate Center
Desert Research Institute
Reno, Nevada

U.S. Drought Monitor

March 5, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

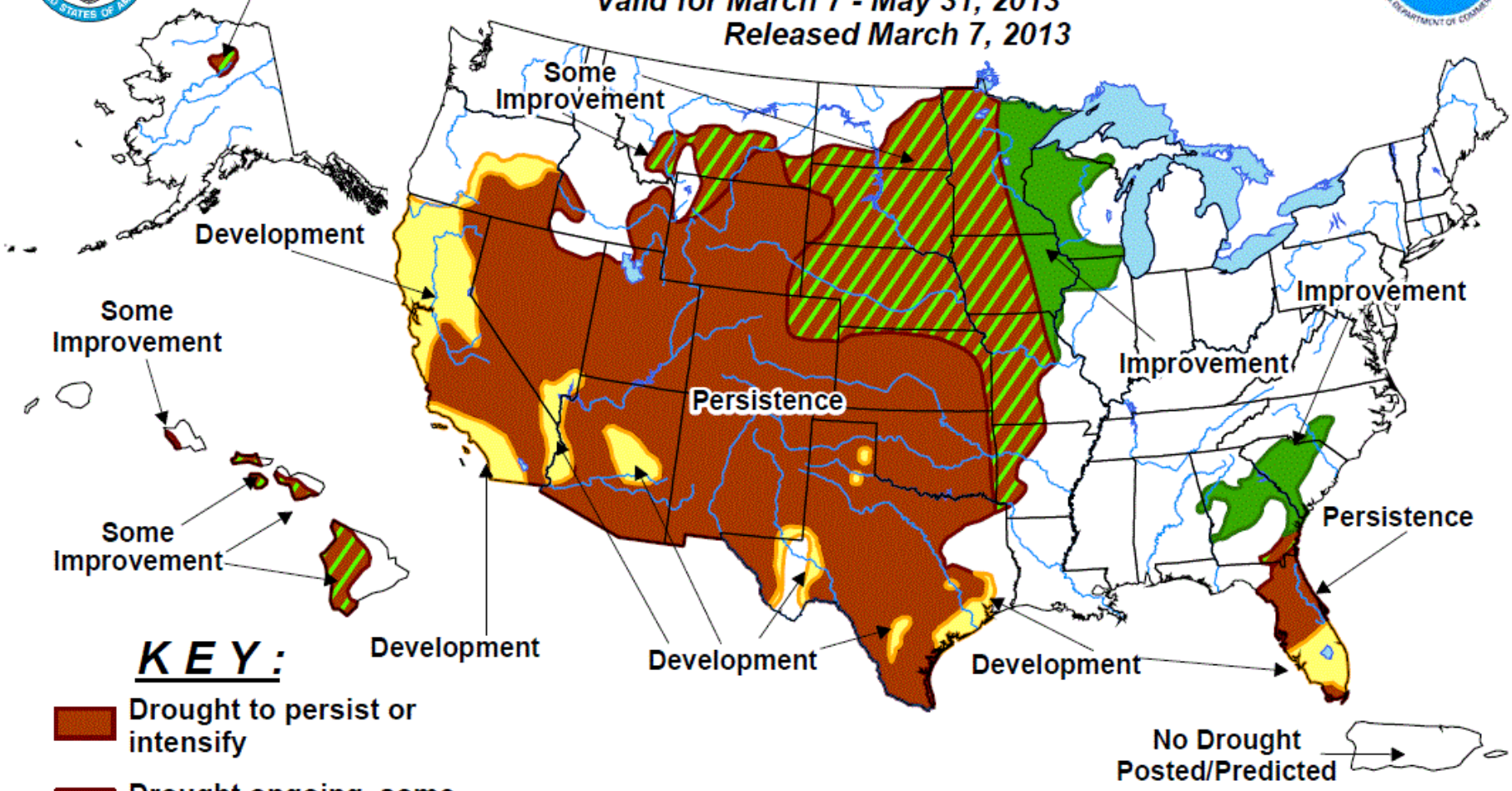
Released Thursday, March 7, 2013
Author: Matthew Rosencrans, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 7 - May 31, 2013

Released March 7, 2013



KEY:

- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

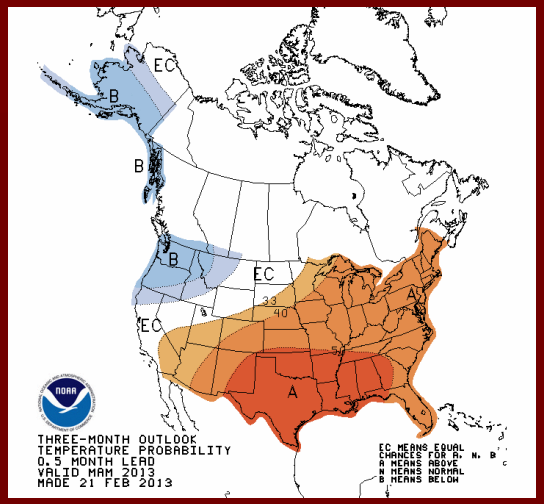
ENSO Status and Outlook

ENSO-neutral conditions continue.

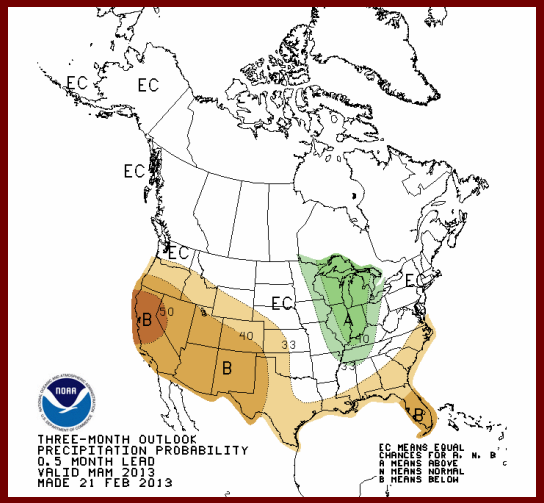
Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SST) are near average across the Pacific Ocean.

Over the last couple months, the atmospheric circulation has been variable partially due to an active Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO).

ENSO-neutral is favored into the Northern Hemisphere summer 2013.



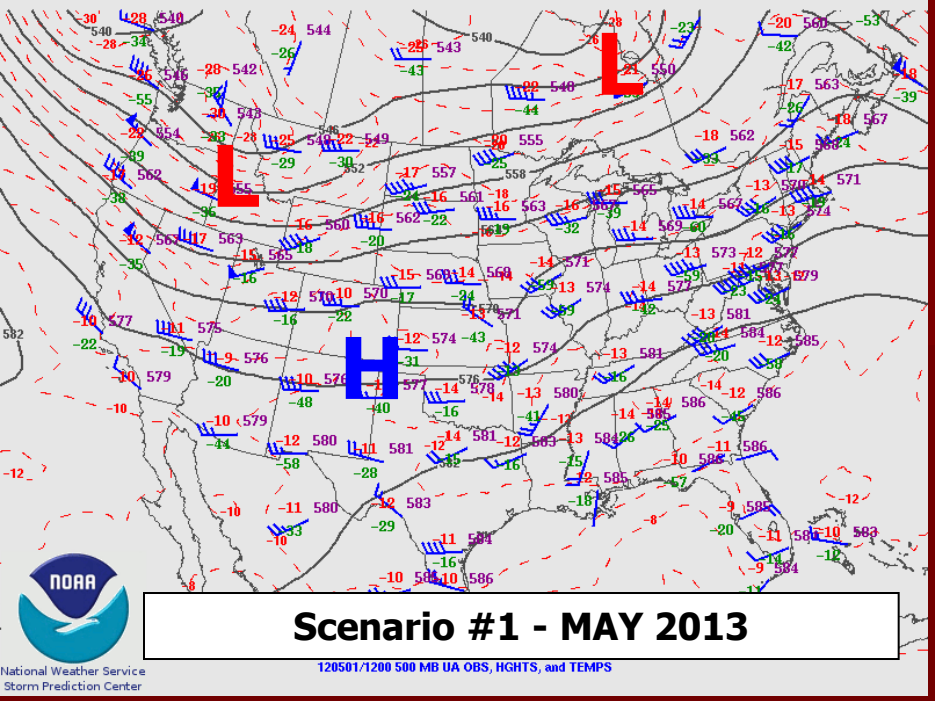
Temperature



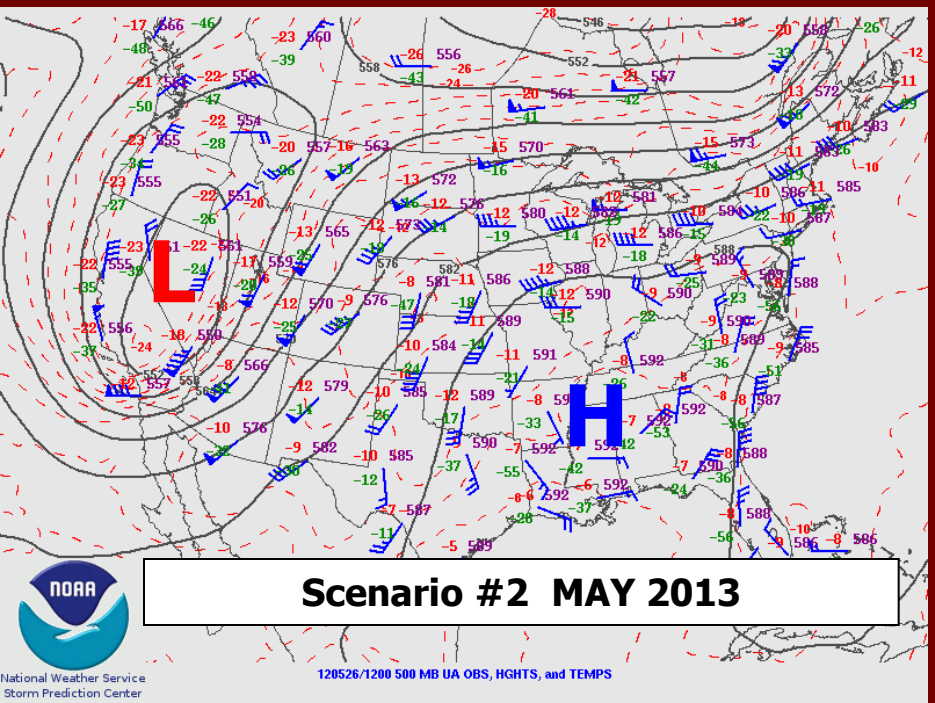
Precipitation

http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/

Fire Season 2013: Spring into Early Summer Weather Pattern



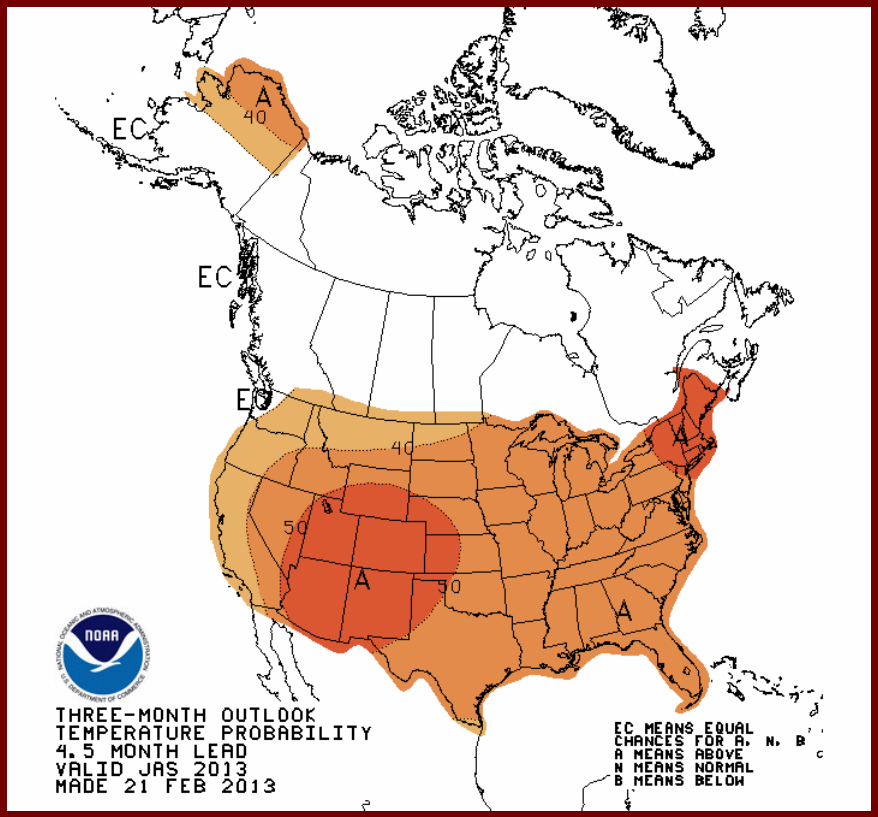
- Scenario #1: Storm track remains more progressive through the northern tier of the United States bringing…*drier and warmer conditions, in addition to some increased wind episodes*…to Northern Arizona.

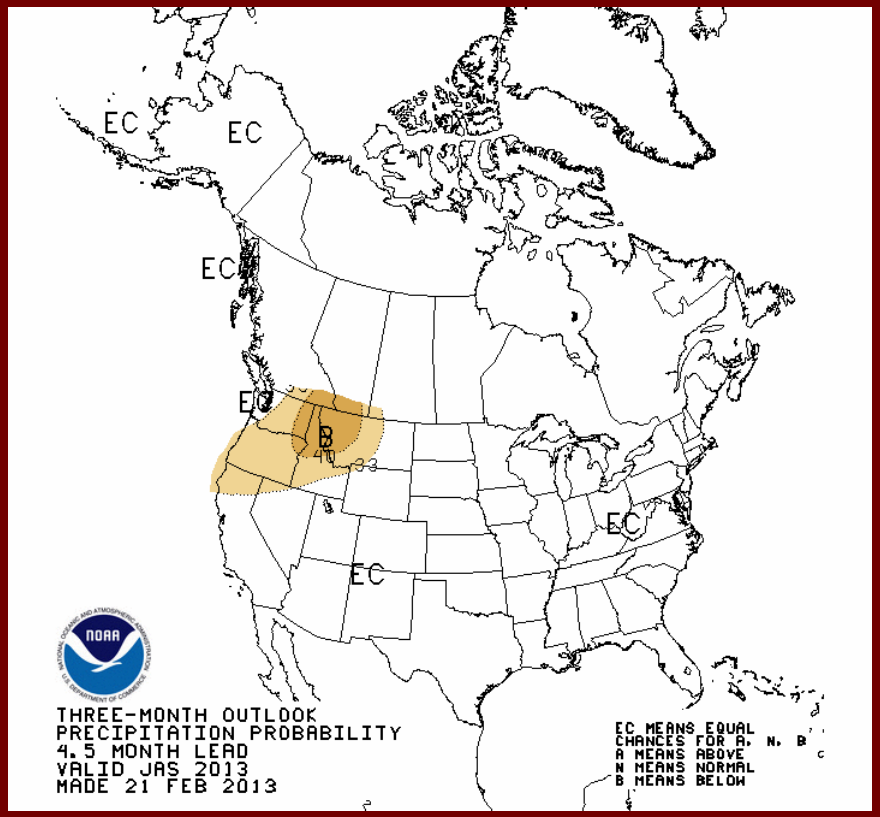


- Scenario #2: The jet stream continues to dip south bringing low pressure systems through the Great Basin…and as far south as the southern California. This pattern favors…*cooler and more moist conditions, but also brings increased winds*…to many portions of the state.

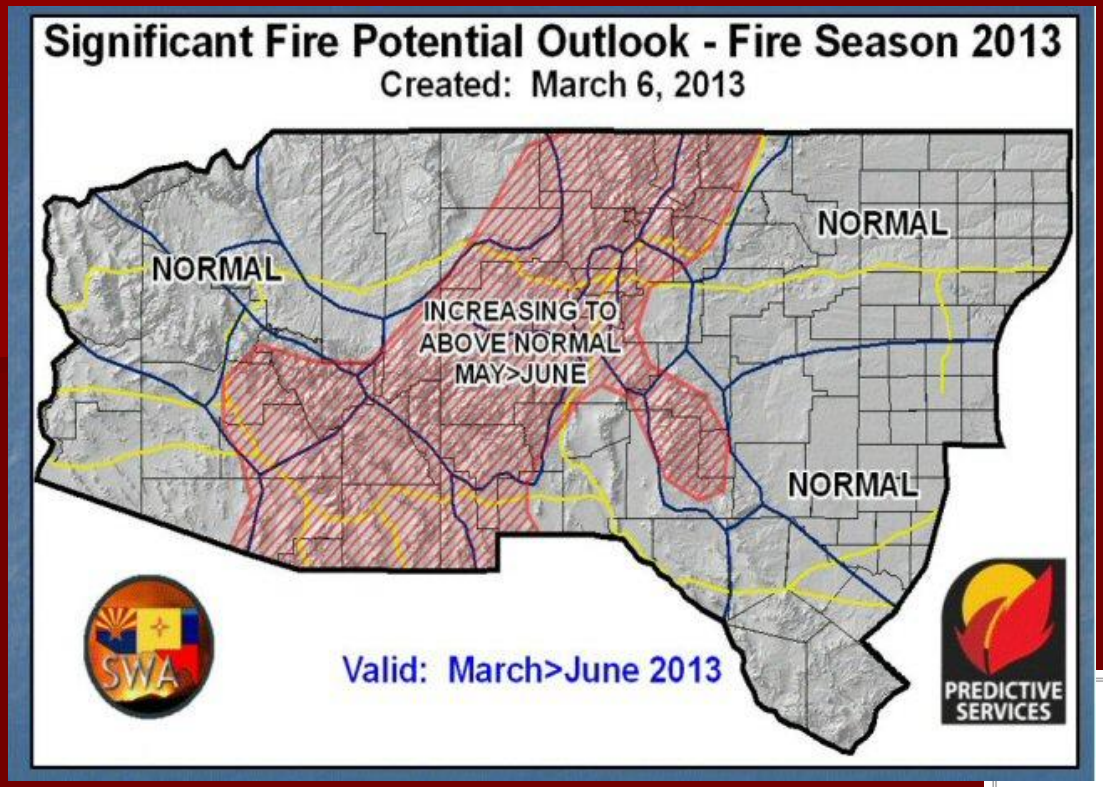
Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

July through September 2013

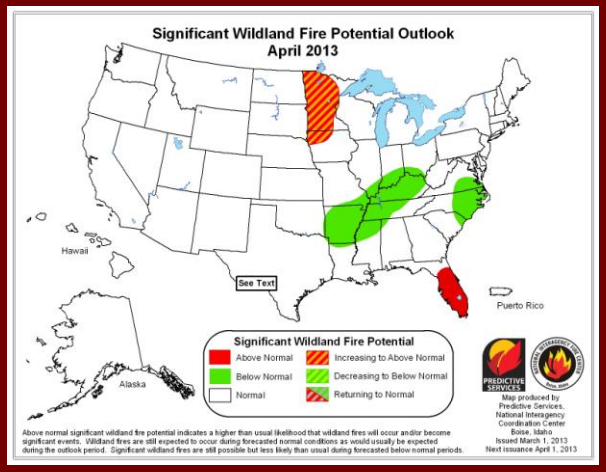


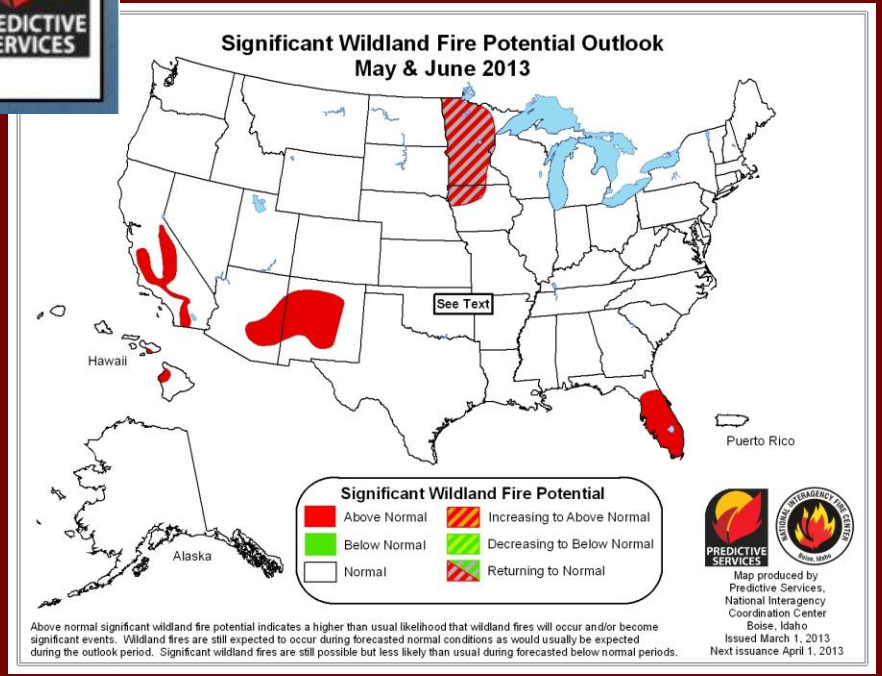


Fire Potential Outlooks



http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/predictive/outlooks/outlooks.htm





Thank You !

Questions?

Valerie L. Meyers
Incident Meteorologist
Fire Weather Program Manager
National Weather Service – Phoenix
valerie.meyers@noaa.gov
(602)275-7417